GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:963
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Use of Banned Pesticides
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pesticides which are banned at the international level;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the impact of pesticides on human and animal health;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers about the harmful effects of these banned pesticides and promote use of bio-fertilizers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The use of pesticides in a country depends upon the prevalence of pests, weeds and diseases in that country and accordingly registration to pesticides is granted by the regulatory authority of that country. Similarly, restriction/ban on pesticides is also the prerogative of respective country. The ban or restriction on a pesticide depends upon the health hazards and availability of the alternatives. As such there is no list of pesticides banned at International level. However, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which is global treaty to protect human health & environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants, recommends elimination of pesticides listed in Annexure 'A' of the convention. The list is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Pesticides are inherently toxic in nature. They are designed to kill or combat pests, diseases and weeds and can pose health hazards if used injudiciously. As such the registration of pesticides is governed under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Act is preventive in nature. The Registration Committee, constituted u/s 5 of the Act, grant registration of pesticides after evaluating toxicity data submitted by the applicant from the GLP (Good Laboratory Practices) accredited laboratories generated on animal and microbial test systems. This data is scientifically extrapolated to assess safety to human beings and environment. Further, the Government keeps on reviewing the registered pesticides, through specially constituted Expert Committees or the Registration Committee, for their continued use or otherwise in the country. Based on such reviews, some pesticides are banned and some others have been restricted for use in the country. The list is at Annexure-II(A&B).

(d): Farmers are being educated and being sensitized about ill effects of chemical pesticides on the crops, human being & in the environment through organization of Farmers Field Schools and Two days orientation training programme.